

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /103 W
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R 181130 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1851

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8779

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: GVN DISSOLVES POLITICAL PARTIES FAILING TO MEET DECREE

LAW 060

1. OFFICIAL VIET- NAM PRESS REPORTED MAY 17 THAT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAS PROMULGATED AN ORDER DISSOLVING ALL POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH HAVE FAILED TO MEET THE CONDITIONS OF ARTICLE 10 OF DECREE LAW 060. (ARTICLE 10 SET FORTH THE TOUGH NEW CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS WHICH POLITICAL PARTIES HAD TO MEET BY MAR 27 1973 OR FACE DISSOLUTION.) THE PARTIES DISSOLVED LISTED BY NAME NUMBERED 26, INCLUDING 24 WHICH HAD RECEIVED FULL RECOGNITION UNDER THE OLD (1969) PARTIES STATUTE AND TWO WHICH HAD RECEIVED ONLY PROVISIONAL RECOGNITION.

2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT NOTED THAT THE ONLY REMAINING PARTIES IN THE RVN ARE THE DEMOCRACY PARTY, WHICH IS FULLY RECOGNIZED UNDER DECREE LAW 060, AND THE FREEDOM PARTY AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
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ALLIANCE, WHICH HAVE RECEIVED PROVISIONAL RECOGNITION, I. E. PERMISSION TO ORGANIZE AND WORK TOWARD FULFILLING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DECREE. THE ANNOUNCEMENT ADDED THAT MOI " IS NOW STUDYING THE FOUNDING DECLARATION OF A NEW PARTY CALLED THE UNIFIED BUDDHIST SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY."

3. COMMENT: THE ONLY SURPRISING THING ABOUT THE MOI ORDER IS ITS TARDINESS. IT HAD BECOME APPARENT BY LATE MARCH AS DECREE LAW 060 'S COMPLY- OR- DIE DEADLINE APPROACHED THAT PRESIDENT THIEU WAS SATISFIED THAT THE DECREE HAD ACHIEVED ITS PURPOSE NAMELY TO FORCE CONSOLIDATION OF THE RVN' S PROFUSION OF POLITICAL PARTIES, AND THAT HE DID INTEND TO LET THE DECREE STAND AS PROMULGATED. YET WHEN THE GVN TOOK NO ACTION TO ENFORCE THE DRCREE AFTER MARCH 27 SOME OPPOSITION POLITICAL LEADERS BEGAN TO WONDER IF THEY HAD BEEN GRANTED A REPRIEVE. BY NOW MOST SAIGON POLITICIANS HAVES STOPPED WAITING FOR THE OTHER SHOE TO DROP. SOME HAVE BEGUN TO HOPE THAT THE MIGHT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE OPERATING WITHOUT INTERFERENCE, WHILE OTHERS HAVE BEGUN TO SUSPECT THAT THE GVN MIGHT BE PLANNING JUST TO IGNORE THEM OUT OF EXISTENCE. THE NEW ORDER MAY COME AS SOMETHING OF A SHOCK IN QUARTERS WHERE THE GVN' S LAISSEZ FAIRE APPROACH HAD ENCOURAGED HOPES OF A REPRIE E FROM THE DECREE.

4. IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW RIGIDLY THE GVN PLANS TO ENFORCE THE NEW ORDER HOWEVER. ACTION WILL PROBABLY VARY IN EACH PARTY' S CASE DEPENDING ON HOW FAR THEY HAVE GONE IN COMPLYING WITH DECREE LAW 060 TO DATE. SO FAR COMPLIANCE HAS BEEN SPOTTY. SOME PARTIES LIKE THE SOUTHERN VNQDD AND THE MINISCULE REVOLUTIONARY HUMAINST PARTY (NHAN VAN CACH MANG, WITH 100 MEMBERS) BRAVELY ANNOUNCED THE CESSATION OF THEIR ACTIVITIES AND HAULED DOWN THEIR PARTY BANNERS BACK IN MARCH. HA THUC KY OF THE RDV HAS INSISTED THAT HE WOULD DEFY THE LAW AND OPERATE UNTIL THE POLICE CARRIED HIM FROM HIS HEADQUARTERS. OTHERS LIKE THE PNM HAVE IGNORED THE ISSUE, PNM' S DAILY NEWSPAPER CONTINUES TO CARRY THE PARTY NAME ON THE MASTHEAD AND PARTY HEADQUARTERS STILL PROMINENTLY DISPLAYS THE HUGE YELLOW AND RED CAP TIEN SIGN. PARTIES THAT HAVE ENTERED NEW ALLIANCES OF
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON08779
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730549/aaaajmtq.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 17 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <09-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980224
Subject: GVN DISSOLVES POLITICAL PARTIES FAILING TO MEET DECREE LAW 060
TAGS: PINT, PINT
To: BANGKOK
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
DANANG
EA
JEC PARIS
NHA TRANG

PHNOM PENH
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005